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The Honorable Edward H. Rees
Chairman, House Committee on
Post Office and Civil Service
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rees:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of 31 October relative to the submission of the strength figures of this agency to the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee.

I have discussed this matter with the National Security Council which has supervision over this agency by recent Act of Congress, and have been instructed by the Council that for essential security reasons the strength of the Central Intelligence Agency should not be furnished for publication.

The publication of our strength would make this data easily accessible to enemy agents in this country. Such information would enable such agents to determine with relative ease the general program and strength of effort of the intelligence activities of the United States. I am sure you will agree that such a contingency would be highly undesirable, to say the least.

It has been our long standing policy that no strength figures will be given out by this agency for record purposes except to two specially cleared senior officials in the Bureau of the Budget who are charged with the handling of our budget problems. The Bureau of the Budget has consistently maintained the security of our strength figures under all circumstances. We have also several times in the past arranged with committees of Congress to withdraw requests for our strength figures for record purposes after discussing with them our essential security requirements. Also, by a long standing verbal agreement, we have furnished no strength of individual personnel data to the Civil Service Commission in order to insure that such data would not be recorded.

It was suggested to the representative of your committee who recently contacted us that the published strength report of government agencies exclude our figures, such exclusion to be explained by a footnote to the effect that national defense reasons make this necessary.

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I have no desire to withhold these figures from you personally, and will be pleased to see you at your convenience and to inform you verbally of our actual and contemplated strength for your information only, and of course, not for publication.

I am sure you will understand my own and the National Security Council's great concern about the full security of the activities and operations of this agency. I wish also to assure you of my full cooperation with the needs and desires of your committee to the utmost extent commensurate with our national defense and security.

Sincerely,

K. H. HILLENKOTTER
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central Intelligence

Copies to:

Mr. Pforzheimer
Chief, Budget and Finance Br.
Chief, Personnel Br.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES U.S.
Committee on Post Office and
Civil Service
Washington, D. C.

October 31, 1947

Rear Admiral R. H. Hillenkoetter
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E Street, NW
Washington, D. C.

Dear Admiral Hillenkoetter:

Pursuant to H.Res. 176, it is requested that you submit to the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee a copy of U.S. Civil Service Form 3257. This request is necessary so the Committee may be advised as to the civilian employment in the Executive Branch of the Federal Government.

The matter has been the subject of staff discussions with your representatives, and the nature of your work and agency is fully appreciated by the Committee and its staff.

You will appreciate that no complete report of civilian employment may be made without the inclusion of your agency as well as several other agencies of the Federal Government of comparable character and responsibility.

Sincerely,

/s/

Edward H. Rees
Chairman

Distribution:

✓ Director
Exec. Reg.
Mr. Pforzheimer
Orig. - Central Records

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Review of this document by CIA has
determined that
☒ CIA has no objection to declass
☐ It contains information of CIA
interest that must remain
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☐ It contains nothing of CIA interest
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